

6903 Lexington Lane
Niles, Ill
60648

11-28-89

Dear Mr. Newman,

Allen Stahl at the American Numismatic Society suggested that I might contact you in regard to a silver hand engraved Indian Fur Trade medal which I recently acquired. Enclosed find a rough sketch/outline of this medal, and two polaroid prints (excuse the poor quality).

I am a collector of silver Indian Peace medals and have many Hall Indian Prints. The Indian Sac Fox Chief Ke-o-kuk with his son is beautifully illustrated in one of these prints, so when I ran across this medal at a gun show, I found it to be intriguing, artistically beautiful, and was fortunate enough to acquire it.

The medal is made of sheet silver, not hammered, it shows no dates or engraved touchmarks. Dimensions are 116 mm long, 91 mm wide and 1 mm. thick. The obverse depicts an American Eagle clutching a banner, with the name Ke-o-kuk engraved. A cloud pattern with 13 stars surrounds the lower portion of the eagle's body. The reverse of this medal has engraved Five Chouteau Frt Co., St Louis, Mississ., unusual borders.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could shed some light on this Indian Fur trade medal. Could this medal be an original? or a phony? If by chance you cannot help me, would you be able to direct me to others in this field who could?

Anticipating your reply + thanks!

Sincerely -

Ronald Slovick

SLOVICK

RONALD A. SLOVICK

1-(312) 647-7288





OBVERSE

KC & KFB

13 STARS

REVERSE

Chouteau, Jr.

Q. 1906

50.

St Louis
Missouri

Licensed Traders

116m or L.

91mm W

SILVER (PLATE-SHEET, NOT HAMMERED)

116mm long

91mm wide

1.0mm thick

NO DATES OR TOUCHMARK

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 2, 1990

Mr. Ronald A. Slovick
6903 Lexington Lane
Niles, IL 60648

Dear Mr. Slovick:

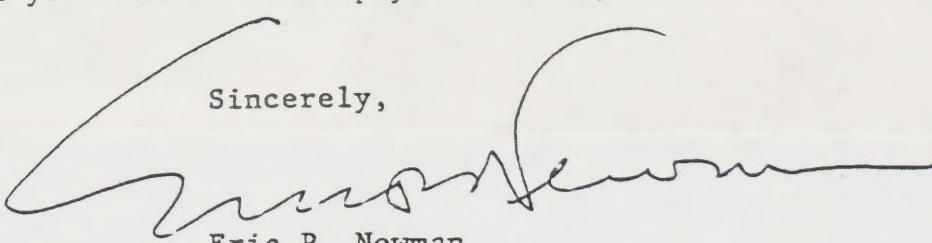
Your interesting letter arrived while I was in the jungles of Borneo. You certainly have bought a very interesting item. I would immediately ask what you paid for it and from whom you bought it. If it is real it ought to be very rare. If it is a phony, then it joins many other similar items. It is not a plus to get it at a gun show. Where has it been all this time? We have on exhibit in our museum a Pierre Chouteau Indian metal of the type illustrated in Belden. I have marked it a reproduction. It is quite old. I would have to examine yours before I could give any opinion. You certainly should have choice pictures taken of it. Has the silver been analyzed? Is the hole punched or drilled? Is the hole worn?

These problems are most difficult and everyone passes the buck to someone else to give an opinion.

There is a large Indian medal collection at the Old Court House in St. Louis, but so far as I know there is nothing like yours.

Happy researching, and if you want me to help you further, let's talk about it.

Sincerely,


Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

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